



**NORTHLAND
POWER**

Empire Solar Project

Draft Water Body Records Review Report

March 28, 2012



Northland Power Inc.
on behalf of
Northland Power Solar
Empire L.P.
Toronto, Ontario

DRAFT Water Body
Records Review Report

Empire Solar Project

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Project Report

March 28, 2012

**Northland Power Inc.
Empire Solar Project**

DRAFT Water Body Records Review Report

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1. Introduction

1.1 Project Description

Northland Power Solar Empire L.P. (hereinafter referred to as “Northland”) is proposing to develop a Class 3 10-megawatt (MW) ground mounted solar photovoltaic (Solar PV) facility in the Town of Cochrane. This Project, known as the Empire Solar Project, is hereafter referred to as “Empire” or the “Project.”

The Project location is comprised of two primary components. The first part of the Project is the location of the solar panels, including access roads, inverters, transformers, fencing, etc, and is hereafter referred to as the “solar panel Project location” The solar panel Project location approximately 122 hectares (ha) in size and located on Lots 17 and 18, Concession 7 of the Town of Cochrane. The solar panel Project location is situated on Glackmeyer Concession Road 7 (shown in Figure 1.1).

The second part of the Project is the approximately 20-km distribution line from the solar panel Project location to the connection point west of the Project location near Hunta, ON. This portion of the project is referred to as the distribution line Project location, with locations shown in Figures 1.2 and 1.3.

1.2 Legislative Requirements

Ontario Regulation (O. Reg.) 359/09 – *Renewable Energy Approvals Under Part V.0.1 of the Act*, (herein referred to as the REA Regulation), came into force on September 24, 2009 and identifies the Renewable Energy Approval (REA) requirements for renewable energy generation facilities in Ontario. The REA Regulation has since been amended by O. Reg. 521/10, which came in effect as of January 1, 2011.

As per the REA Regulation (Part II, Section 4), ground-mounted solar facilities with a nameplate capacity greater than (>) 12 kilowatts (kW) are classified as Class 3 solar facilities and require an REA.

Section 30 of the REA Regulation requires proponents of Class 3 solar projects to undertake a water body records review to identify “*whether the project is:*”

1. *in a water body*
2. *within 120 m of the average annual high water mark of a lake, other than a lake trout lake that is at or above development capacity*
3. *within 300 m of the average annual high water mark of a lake trout lake that is at or above development capacity*
4. *within 120 m of the average annual high water mark of a permanent or intermittent stream, or*
5. *within 120 m of a seepage area” (O. Reg. 359/09, s. 30, Table).*

Subsection 2 of Section 30 of the REA Regulation requires the proponent to prepare a report “setting out a summary of the records searched and the results of the analysis” (O. Reg. 359/09). This Water Body Records Review Report has been prepared to meet these requirements.

2. Methodology and Results

The following sections document the records that were reviewed and assessed. The focus of the assessment was to identify whether or not the Project Location is situated on or within 120 m of any waterbodies. The definition of a water body is stated in Subsection 1(1) of the REA regulation:

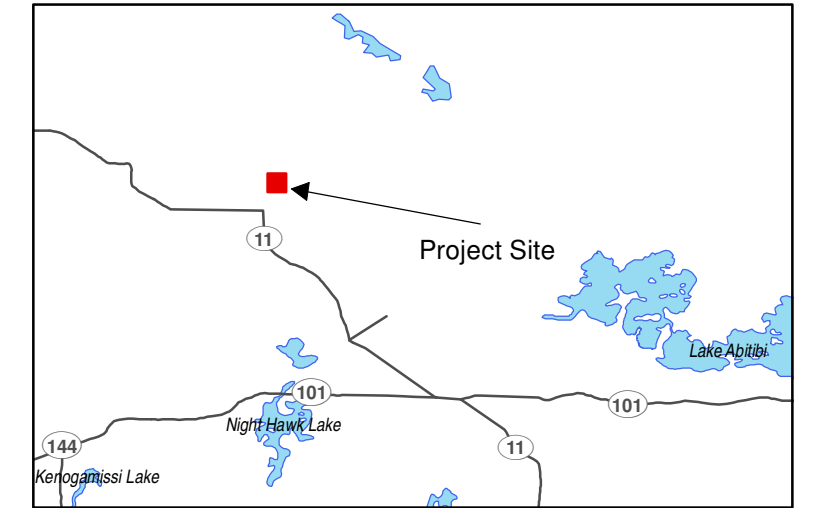
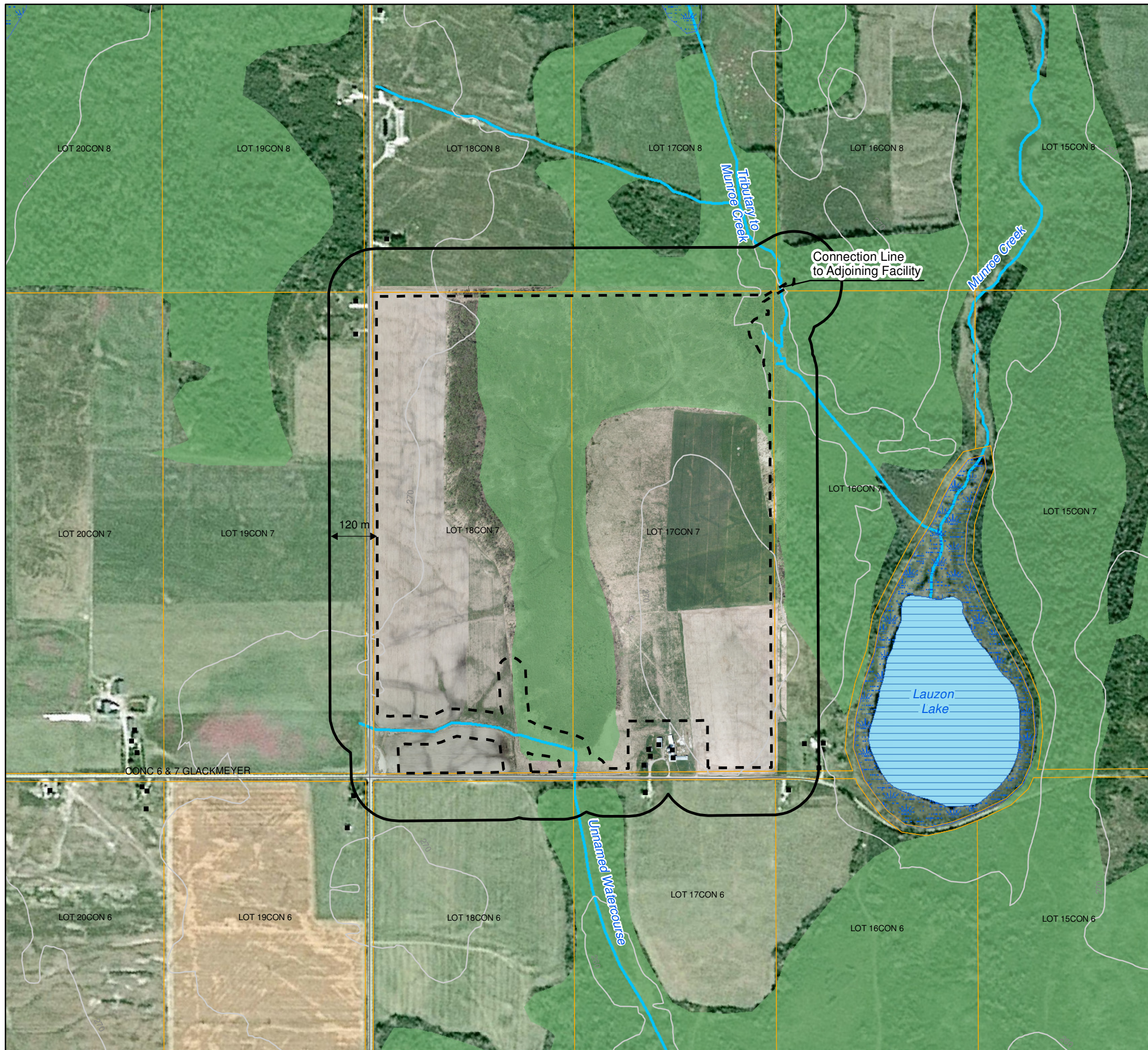
“‘water body’ includes a lake, a permanent stream, an intermittent stream and a seepage area but does not include,

- (a) grassed waterways,*
- (b) temporary channels for surface drainage, such as furrows or shallow channels that can be tilled and driven through,*
- (c) rock chutes and spillways,*
- (d) roadside ditches that do not contain a permanent or intermittent stream,*
- (e) temporarily ponded areas that are normally farmed,*
- (f) dugout ponds, or*
- (g) artificial bodies of water intended for the storage, treatment or recirculation of runoff from farm animal yards, manure storage facilities and sites and outdoor confinement areas.”*

The following sections of this report were organized with respect to the governing bodies identified in Column 1 of the Table in section 30 of the REA Regulation.

The results are discussed below in relation to the distances specified between the Project and water features as defined in Section 30 of the REA Regulation (see Section 1.2).

There are no conservation authorities within the jurisdiction of the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line). Also, the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line) is not located within the Niagara Escarpment Commission Plan Area, the Greenbelt Plan area or the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan Area. Similarly there are no local roads boards and local service boards present with jurisdiction over these areas. Therefore, records review for these bodies was not conducted.



Legend

- Building
- +— Railway
- Road
- Topographic Contour (5m interval)
- Watercourse
- Parcel
- ⋯ Project Location
- ▭ 120 m from Project Location
- Water Body
- ▨ Wetland Area
- ▨ Wild Rice Stand
- Wooded Area

Notes:
 1. Produced by Hatch under license from Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Copyright (c) Queens Printer 2011.
 2. Spatial referencing UTM NAD83.

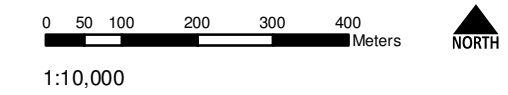
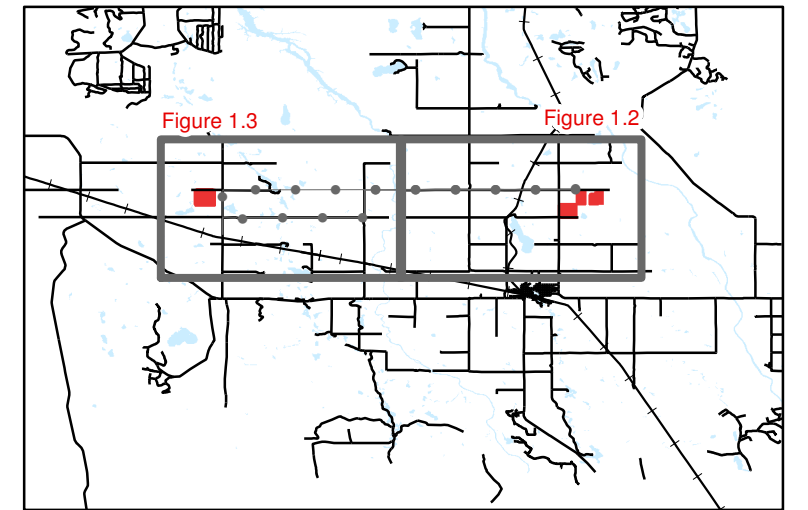
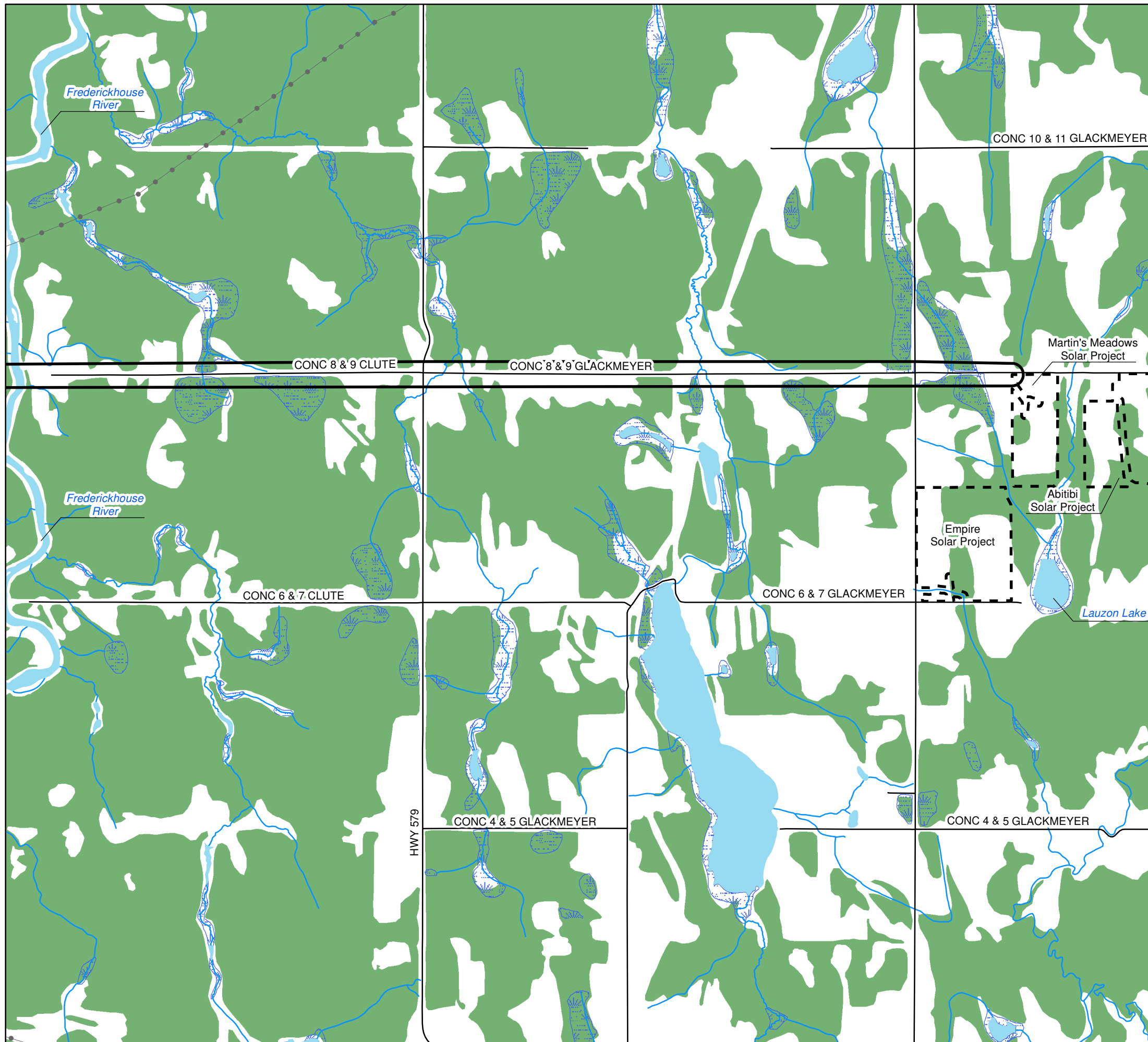


Figure 1.1
 Northland Power Inc.
 Empire Solar Project
Water Body Features
Solar Panel Project Location

Back of figure



Legend

- Connection Point
- Road
- Utility Line
- - - Northland Power Project Location
- ▭ 120 m from Distribution Line
- Wetland Area
- Wooded Area
- Waterbody Feature**
- Watercourse
- Waterbody

Notes:
 1. Produced by Hatch under licence from Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Copyright (c) Queens Printer 2011.
 2. Spatial referencing UTM NAD 83.
 3. Satellite Imagery from google Earth Pro, captured 2003 through 2004.

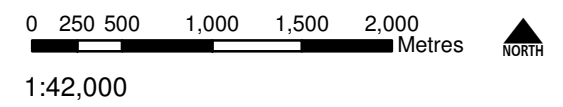
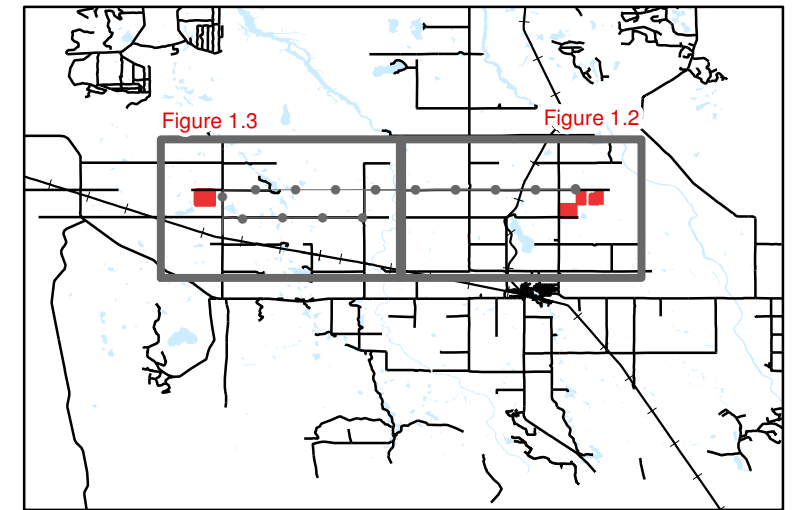
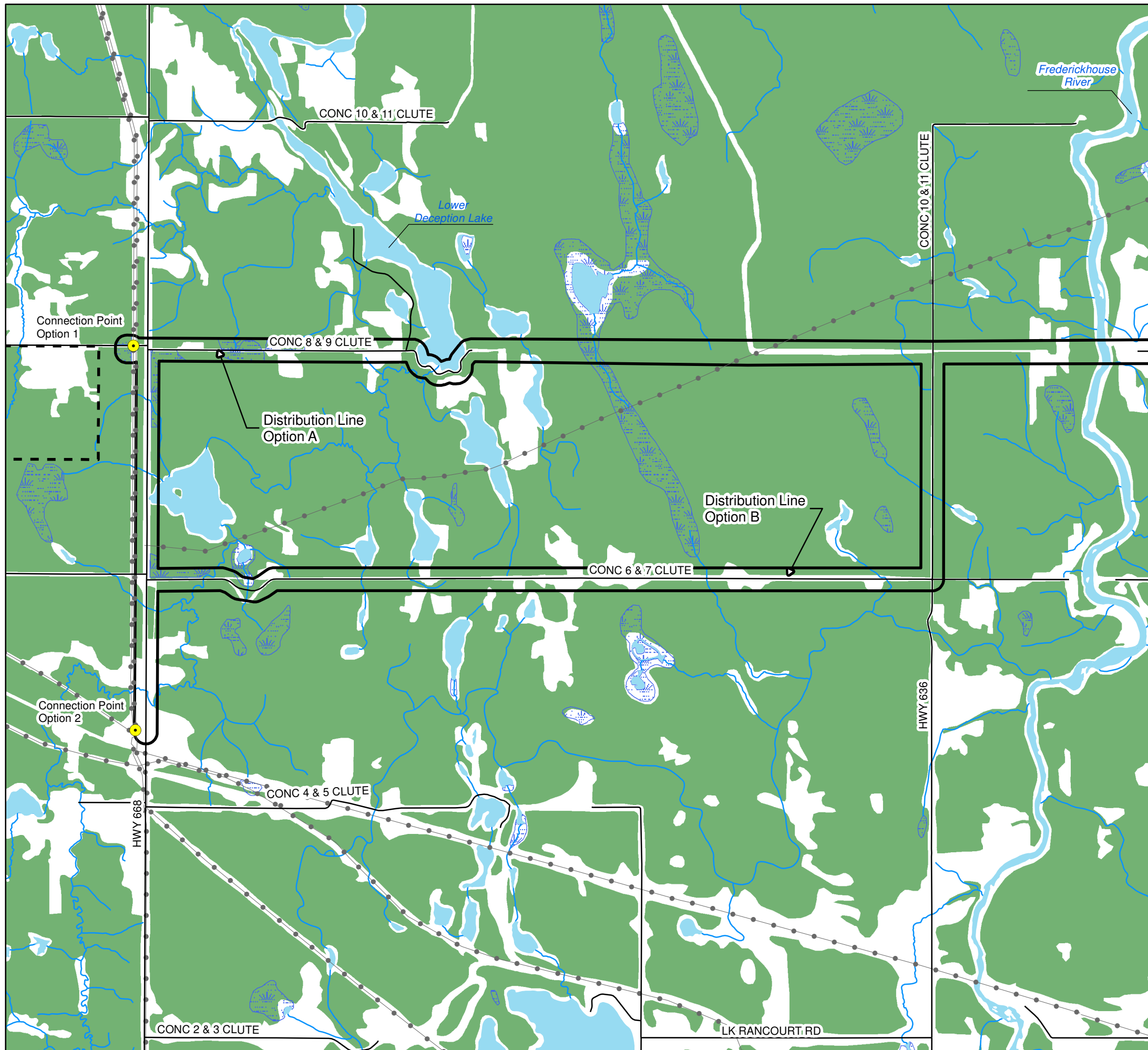


Figure 1.2
 Northland Power Inc.
Distribution Line Project Location (Eastern Half) - Waterbodies

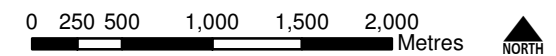
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Legend

- Connection Point
- Road
- Utility Line
- - - Northland Power Project Location
- ▭ 120 m from Distribution Line
- Wetland Area
- Wooded Area
- Waterbody Feature**
- Watercourse (LIO Mapping)
- Waterbody

Notes:
 1. Produced by Hatch under licence from Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Copyright (c) Queens Printer 2011.
 2. Spatial referencing UTM NAD 83.
 3. Satellite Imagery from google Earth Pro, captured 2003 through 2004.



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Figure 1.3
 Northland Power Inc.
Distribution Line Project Location (Western Half) - Waterbodies

Back of figure

2.1 Ministry of Natural Resources Records

2.1.1 Methodology

The following Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) on-line records were reviewed:

- Ontario Base Maps and natural feature layers from Land Information Ontario (LIO) (www.geographynetwork.ca)
- Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC) biodiversity explorer (<https://www.biodiversityexplorer.mnr.gov.on.ca/nhicWEB/mainSubmit.do>).

MNR also provided mapping of waterbodies in the study area from their NRVIS system.

2.1.2 Results

The MNR natural features layer from the LIO indicates the presence of a tributary of Munroe Creek within 120 m of the northeast corner of the Project Location. An unnamed watercourse is present within the southwest corner of the Project Location. Lauzon Lake is approximately 250 m east of the Project Location (Figure 1.1).

LIO mapping shows a total of 24 waterbodies crossing the proposed distribution line options, including a crossing of the Frederickhouse River, which is a tributary of the Albany River in the Moose River Basin (Figures 1.2 and 1.3). There are 10 other waterbodies shown in the figures that do not cross the proposed distribution line routes, but are located within 120 m of the distribution line corridor, including Lower Deception Lake.

The MNR biodiversity explorer interactive map did not identify any new watercourses within the proposed Project Location that were not already identified on the LIO mapping.

2.2 Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Records

2.2.1 Methodology

The following Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) on-line records were reviewed:

- rural drainage mapping (http://www.lio.ontario.ca/imf-ows/imf.jsp?site=ads_en).

2.2.2 Results

Rural drainage mapping identified Munroe Creek as well as Lauzon Lake in the vicinity of the solar Panel Project location. The drainage mapping did not indicate what type of drainage was present on the solar panel Project Location, nor did it identify any constructed drains.

2.3 Federal Government Records

2.3.1 Methodology

The following federal government websites were reviewed to determine if any records regarding water features on or adjacent to the property were available:

- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) website (<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/index-eng.htm>)
- DFO Species at Risk Distribution Map (<http://www.conservation-ontario.on.ca/projects/DFO.html>)
- Natural Resource Canada (NRCan) (http://ess.nrcan.gc.ca/mapcar/index_e.php).

2.3.2 Results

The review of the DFO website resulted in no site-specific information regarding waterbodies on or within 120 m of the Project location.

The NRCan mapping review did not identify any new watercourses on or within 120 m of the Project Location.

2.4 Municipal Records

2.4.1 Methodology, Town of Cochrane

The Project location is located within Town of Cochrane, a single tier municipality. The Town of Cochrane Official Plan (TOC, 2008) and Zoning By-Law (TOC, 2010) do not identify any specific water body features on or within 120 m of the Project location (both solar panel and distribution line) not shown on other data sources. Information on water body features was also requested from Town of Cochrane by e-mail on July 7, 2011.

The Project location (both solar panel and distribution line) is within the jurisdiction of the Cochrane Suburban Planning Board. Information on water body features was requested from Cochrane Suburban Planning Board by e-mail on July 7, 2011.

2.4.2 Results, Town of Cochrane

The Official Plan mapping did show the tributary of Munroe Creek and Lauzon Lake. Waterbodies were also shown along the proposed distribution line routes, although none that were not shown in other data sources (i.e., LIO mapping) were observed. No other information on water body features on or within 120 m of the Project location was available.

3. Summary of Results and Next Steps

3.1 Summary of Results

Table 3.1 summarizes the results of the records review according to the features identified in Section 1.2.

Table 3.1 Summary of Records Review Determinations

Determination to be Made	Yes/No	Description
Is the Project in a water body?	Yes	There are no waterbodies on the solar Panel Project location, but the distribution line Project location will cross approximately 24 watercourses.
Is the Project within 120 m of the average annual high water mark of a lake, other than a lake trout lake that is at or above development capacity?	Yes	No lakes were identified within 120 m of the solar panel Project location. Lower Deception Lake is located along Distribution Line Option A.
Is the Project within 300 m of the average annual high water mark of a lake trout lake that is at or above development capacity?	No	No lake trout lakes were identified within 300 m of the solar panel or distribution line Project locations.
Is the Project within 120 m of the average annual high water mark of a permanent or intermittent stream?	Yes	Two waterbodies were identified on and within 120 m of the solar panel Project Location: Munroe Creek on the northeast corner and an unnamed watercourse on the southwest corner. There are 34 watercourses located within 120 m of the distribution line Project location.
Is the Project within 120 m of a seepage area?	No	No seepage areas were identified on or within 120 m of the Project Location.

Therefore, depending on the layout of the proposed Project, some components of the solar panel Project location could potentially be located within 120 m of the average annual high water mark of a tributary of Munroe Creek and/or an additional unnamed watercourse. The proposed distribution line may cross a total of 24 waterbodies (depending on the route selected) and may be located within 120 m of 10 additional waterbodies, including Lower Deception Lake, depending on the route selected.

3.2 Next Steps

A site investigation, as required in Section 31 of the REA Regulation will be completed to (i) confirm the features identified during this records review, (ii) identify if any corrections to the information presented herein are required, (iii) determine whether any additional waterbodies exist on the Project location, (iv) confirm the boundaries of any water feature within 120 m of the Project location and (v) determine the distance from the Project Location to any identified water body boundaries.

4. References

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). Available on-line at <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/index-eng.htm>
Accessed December 2, 2010.

Government of Ontario. 2009. Ontario Regulation 359/09 made under the Environmental Protection Act 2007, Renewable Energy Approvals under Part V.0.1. of the Act. September 8, 2009 version. Printed in the Ontario Gazette: October 10, 2009. Available on-line at: [http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/source/regs/english/2009/elaws_src_regs_r09359\)e.htm](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/source/regs/english/2009/elaws_src_regs_r09359)e.htm).
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Rural Drainage Mapping. Available on-line at http://www.lio.ontario.ca/imf-ows/imf.jsp?site=ads_en
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